



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION

AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

(207) 287-1440

TTY: (207) 287-4469

Mathew McIntyre

78 Tannery Road
Lowell, ME 04493
(207) 680-0678

Mathew.McIntyre@legislature.maine.gov

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and esteemed members of the committee on Health and Human Services (HHS), I am Mathew McIntyre and I humbly serve as the Representative for Maine's House District 18. I offer testimony as a cosponsor in support of LD1835, "An Act to Improve Nonemergency MaineCare Transportation" (NET).

Transparency and accountability. These are the prime objectives of LD1835, and frankly are also the pillars upon which good governance is based. The approximate \$73 million dollar per year price tag of the MaineCare NET program demands both transparency and accountability.

As a retired senior manager of the US Secret Service, I previously administered program budgets that ranged from just a couple hundred thousand dollars to tens of millions of dollars. I became very skilled at justifying program requirements, in terms of both staffing levels and overall operational expenditures. There were times when funding was good, and not so good, yet in all instances the job had to get done. However, along the way I never forgot one critical aspect of the "business of government". Every mission I engaged, and every program dollar I spent had to be accounted for, because it was funded by the taxpayers, one of which was my mother. Trust me when I say there were plenty of times, she would vocalize her thoughts about who the government works for.

Now I serve the People of Maine, and I know that every dollar that moves through Augusta is theirs, and I believe they must be provided with an accurate and transparent "report card" on how their money is being spent. LD1835 helps to ensure this.

After reviewing the NET information currently posted on the HHS website, I see the performance metrics called for in LD1835 align with the already established contractual work specifications that NET coordinators are bound to, so neither the department nor the committee need to spend a lot of effort on reinventing that wheel. As to the creation of the "dashboard" called for in the Bill, I may suggest the department consider working with Maine's Office of Information Technology (OIT) to see if they have a webmaster onboard that could design and build the dashboard and avoid the costs of hiring a subcontractor. Regarding the proposed Ombudsman function, I believe there are several vacant positions on the department's rolls, so perhaps one could be re-allocated to this function. As to the recommended advisory council, I believe that yields no new costs.

In my opinion LD1835 represents good governance. I hope you see it the same.

House District 18

Respectfully,
Mathew McIntyre